S
330,9786
E10m
1977
v.6, no.3

PLEASE RETURN

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JAN 5 1978

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

MONTANA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

THIRD
QUARTER
1977

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P O BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DATE DUE
MSU OCT 1 '73

MONTANA

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

AN ANALYSIS OF PAST AND PRESENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume VI Number 3 December 1977

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Montana Secretary of State

Montana State Library - Historical Documents Section

Department of Business Regulations, Financial Division, Bank Examiners

Department of Justice, Motor Vehicles Division Registrar's Bureau

Department of Revenue, Motor Fuel Tax Division

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana

Board of Oil and Gas Conservation

U. S. Department of Agriculture Statistical Reporting Service

Federal Reserve System - 9th Federal District

Bureau of Reclamation

Bonneville Power Administration

Montana Dakota Utilities

Montana Power Company

Pacific Power and Light

Mountain Bell Telephone Company

Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover data produced in cooperation with U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Manpower Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Title Page	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of Contents	1
A Note About Benchmarking and Seasonal Adjustment Changes	2
FEATURE ARTICLE: "What Is The Real Unemployment Rate?"	3
Analysis - Third Quarter 1977	16
Average Weekly Initial Claims	18
Total Nonagricultural Placement	18
Total Number of Building Permits	18
Number of Residential Building Permits	18
Quit Rate - Manufacturing	18
New Hires Rate - Manufacturing	18
Layoff Rate - Manufacturing	20
Accession Rate - Manufacturing	20
Average Weekly Hours - Manufacturing	20
New Business Telephones	20
New Corporations	20
Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations	20
Unemployment Rate	22
Unemployment Total	22
Average Weekly Insured Unemployed	22
Manufacturing Employment	22
New Car Registrations	22
Residential Electric Power Sales Index	24
Manufacturing Power Sales	24
Commercial-Industrial Power Sales Index	24
Bank Loans Index	24
Bank Deposits Index	24
Bank Debits	24
Loan/Deposit Ratio	26
Employment-Lumber and Wood Products	26
Montana Nonagricultural Employment Index	26
U. S. Nonagricultural Employment Index	26
Natural Gas Withdrawals	26
Oil and Gas Wells Completed	26
Oil Refined	28
Oil Production	28
Taxable Gallons Gasoline	28
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	28
Average Weekly Spendable Earnings	28
Montana Composite Index	28
Marginal Employment Adjustments Composite Index	28
Indicators	30
Appendix I Glossary	33
Appendix II Key	37

A NOTE ABOUT BENCHMARKING AND SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT CHANGES

Because of new benchmarks and new seasonal adjustment factors, some of the series in this publication have been changed to take into account the latest information available. 1976 benchmarks, which reflect the most recent and complete estimates of employment, account for revisions to indicators dealing with total and industry detailed employment. These benchmark levels are revised annually to adjust for sampling errors and any changes to industrial classifications. In addition, all of those series requiring seasonal adjustment have also been revised to reflect the most recent seasonal adjustment factors. Changes in these seasonal series can be attributed to the inclusion of 1976 data in the BLS seasonal adjustment method.

"WHAT IS THE REAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE?"

By Cathy L. Shenkle, Economist

Research and Analysis Section
Montana Employment Security Division

For over three decades unemployment figures have been used as a measure of performance of the economic well-being of our country. Whether or not these unemployment figures are thought of as people or as a measure of economic well-being is irrelevant - what is important is the fact that these figures have been misused and misunderstood, and the credibility of these figures is being questioned.[12/] A look at the historical background of the labor force methodology reveals several important factors that contribute to this lack of credibility. But before the historical background can be fully understood, a few basic terms must be defined.

Civilian Labor Force (CLF) - All persons 16 years of age or over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed, and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Employment - The number of persons who during a given survey week did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, plus the number of those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons, whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Unemployment - Defined in the 1970 Census as persons in the labor force 16 years old or over who did not work during the survey week, but who made specific efforts to find a job within the last four weeks and who are available for work during the survey week, and those who were not working and were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Unemployment Rate - An expression of all unemployed persons as a percent of the Civilian Labor Force.[6/]

Keeping these terms in mind, the background of labor force statistics can now be studied.

Prior to 1940, rather incomplete data were available as no direct measure of the unemployed had been attempted. Until 1930 the Bureau of the Census counted the number of "gainful workers", or the number of persons with a gainful occupation, which is not synonymous with the current definition of labor force.[7/]

As a result of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 which created a national network of public employment offices, and also the Social Security Act of 1935 which created the Unemployment Insurance System, a vast amount of data became available on both employment and unemployment, much of it collected by the state and local employment offices. These offices, along with the War Manpower Commission offices during the war years, began to estimate unemployment for states and areas.

But sharply rising unemployment in the 1930's and the demanding need for an objective measure of unemployment led to the development by the

Works Projects Administration (set up in 1935) of the Monthly Report on Unemployment in 1940. This provided for the first time, somewhat more reliable national estimates on a current basis - not only of unemployment, but also a count of the employed. The basic concepts of this report were adopted for the 1940 Census of Population, and later, the 1950 Census.[7/]

The Monthly Report on Unemployment, which now became the Monthly Report on the Labor Force (MRLF), was published until July 1959 by the Bureau of the Census and since then by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using the Bureau of the Census as a collection agency. National statistics for labor force, employment, and unemployment estimates contained in the MRLF are based on a monthly field survey (Current Population Survey, or CPS) of a scientifically selected sample of households throughout the country - originally some 47,000 households eligible for interview - which are visited by an interviewer compiling information for the "household data" of employment.[4/] These interviews are the basic source of the government's information on total unemployment. These data relate to the status of individuals in the week including the 12th day of the month (reference, or survey week) and are collected in the subsequent, or interview, week.

Unlike the CPS, (synonymous with MRLF), the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program also supplied data for small geographic areas as well as characteristics of the employed and unemployed. In order to have state-to-state comparability of estimates, the Bureau of Employment Security developed in 1950 a 70-step building block procedure, explained in a

Handbook on "Techniques for Estimating Unemployment", which has since been revised according to the experience gained in estimating unemployment. This method relied heavily on the State Unemployment Insurance claims records, provided for a series of adjustments to allow for special situations, and allowed for estimates to include those not covered by the UI system.9/

This 70-step method of computing employment was based on payroll records of local business establishments while unemployment was based on insurance records of each state. The earliest evaluation of this 70-step method which was used for local area unemployment estimates was presented by the President's Committee to Appraise Employment and Unemployment Statistics (the Gordon Committee) in 1962. One of its criticisms of the Handbook method was the fact that its results tend to decrease in accuracy as the size of the area decreases. Also, the Committee stated employment data relate to place of employment and unemployment data relate to the place where UI claims were filed, neither of which necessarily agrees with the place of residence (the method used for deriving national figures under CPS).8/

When the Handbook method was set up, it was thought that the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) would be the smallest geographical areas used when computing unemployment estimates. Therefore, attention was not given to the question of the residence of the worker - the point of reference in the CPS survey - because of the assumption that SMSA's are economically integrated areas in which the vast majority of all workers live and work.11/

An independent study made by Joseph C. Ullman shortly after the Gordon Committee report was presented revealed that comparison of the Handbook method to 1960 Census figures led to deterioration of the reliability of the Handbook estimates as the data were disaggregated first to a regional basis, then to a state level, and finally to an SMSA.[8/] Through the 1960's, however, the Handbook method was used to compute unemployment rates for smaller and smaller geographic areas, an implementation that it was never designed to be used for, and resulted in estimates of questionable validity - not only for study of unemployment problems, but also for the distribution of Federal funds. These Federal funds were distributed through such programs as the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA), which was passed to grant Federal assistance to communities with substantial and persistent unemployment for the purpose of building public works projects to assist in economic development.[9/]

But even though the Handbook method was supposed to allow state-to-state comparability of the unemployment estimates, dissimilarities of the various definitions involved among the states led to technically incomparable data. It is important to have a thorough understanding of the concepts and criteria used in determining whether or not a person is unemployed. According to the national survey, unemployed persons are those civilians who had no employment during the survey week, were available for work, and had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past four weeks, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, or were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days.

A second definition comes from the fact that the UI system is designed to pay benefits only to unemployed persons. For UI purposes, but not unemployment estimating, an unemployed person is one who is without earnings, or in the case of a person partially unemployed, with earnings which are less than a specified amount, who is seeking work, and who is both able and available for work. With these two definitions in mind, a third definition has been devised for use in labor market analyses by the Employment Security System. Unemployment is defined as a count of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work and were looking for work, or would have looked for work except that they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week), or they believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.[7/] The first two definitions are quite similar other than the treatment of partially unemployed persons. The third tries to come as close as possible to the survey definition while still taking into account legal and administrative factors which the states' UI programs generate. No matter which definition of unemployment is considered, it is important to note that even if a government achieved full employment, unemployment would never be zero. Full employment only implies an overall balance between supply and demand of the labor market. There will still be maladjustments in the labor market. The equilibrium between supply and demand must allow for these maladjustments if there is to be any flexibility and flow of labor. A certain short-term fluctuation on the labor market - called frictional unemployment - is a normal and healthy

condition. These are people who are "between jobs" or may be involved in such things as a temporary plant shutdown for the purpose of modernization or retooling. This type of unemployment is highest in a condition of prevailing full-employment and lowest when there is a considerable measure of unemployment as people are not willing to sacrifice job security when jobs are scarce.[1/] Another maladjustment in the labor market deals with the long-term problem of structural unemployment. Instead of a single labor market, there is a great number of sub-markets in which there is an interaction of workers with specialized skills and qualifications, and vacancies involving particular jobs. It is therefore possible and even normal to have an excess of workers over vacancies in some areas, and an excess of vacancies over unemployed workers in another. Vacancies and workers cannot get together and cancel out, but must simply coexist.[10/] Therefore, some unemployment is healthy in a thriving economy. But accurate methods of counting these unemployed persons must exist in order to have data with any relevancy at all.

Finally, in 1971, the General Accounting Office (GAO) conducted an intensive year-long field audit of two states to evaluate the statistics used to allocate money for certain Federal manpower and economic development programs. The auditors found that even though most states used the Handbook method, it was generally held in low esteem because it was not considered reliable; that states were introducing changes in the method without authorization; and that inconsistencies were creeping into the data.[8/]

Shortly after the GAO report in 1972, responsibility for the methodology used in the development of Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) was transferred to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) under the direction of the Department of Labor. BLS realized the immediate need to improve the Handbook method. Their first step was to provide assistance to State agencies in interpreting the Handbook methods and to insure these procedures were followed correctly. One of the major changes to the 70-step method was to change labor force data from place of establishment to place of residence in order to replicate estimates that would be derived from the methods of the CPS survey and to adjust for multiple jobholdings - more commonly known as moonlighting. Another major change updated the procedures for estimating employment and unemployment in noncovered industries. This allows employment estimates to be based on the number of employed persons by place of residence rather than the number of jobs by place of work. Place of work figures tend to overstate unemployment rates in suburban areas where there is heavy commuting out of the area, and to understate rates for areas of high unemployment where there is a large amount of commuting into the area.[11/] These changes were necessary in order to meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) of 1973. CETA requires distribution of federal funds to state and local governments to develop and operate programs to increase the employability of their residents. The distribution of those funds is based for the most part on the rate of unemployment. This Act specifies that " . . . the determination of whether persons are without jobs shall be in accordance with the criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor in defining persons as unemployed."[3/] These are the

criteria used in the CPS to derive national unemployment estimates.

Along with the above revisions to the Handbook method, the BLS attempted to develop a new system which would maximize comparability since this could not adequately be achieved within the limits of the Handbook methodology. The BLS instituted a procedure wherein, after monthly estimates are developed under the Handbook method, the annual estimates for selected states and areas were replaced by control totals from CPS. This new system of adjustments to CPS has been carried out in stages, beginning in 1973. Because the CPS sample, though large, was not large enough to provide usable data for all states, only 19 states, the 30 largest SMSA's, and central cities of 11 large SMSA's first used this new method. These 19 states together accounted for about three-fourths of the Nation's unemployment.[11/] After CPS adjustment, the unemployment rate was higher than State agency estimates in 11 states and lower for 8 states. As a group, unemployment measured significantly higher according to CPS than the sum of the 19 State agency estimates. This procedure was expanded in 1974 to include a total of 27 states, and in 1976, after expanding the survey to approximately 65,000 households, 23 states were added, making all 50 states covered by the new method.[9/]

Meanwhile, other Federal laws were passed - an amendment to PWEDA of 1965, the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, an amendment to PWEA of 1976, and an amendment to CETA of 1973 - which required even more Federal funding based on LAUS estimates. Federal funding to local area recipients increased from approximately $700 million in Fiscal Year 1974 to over $16 billion in Fiscal Year 1977. This put even more pressure on BLS to

make sure their statistics accurately describe the unemployment situation in the United States. Because of this the role of the BLS has shifted from that of providing assistance and leadership for local area estimates, to the shouldering of major responsibility for development of monthly data to implement three Congressional acts.

As of 1976 all 50 states plus the District of Columbia are supposed to be using BLS's new method of computing unemployment estimates by following the procedure for adjustment to the CPS.[9/]

How does this CPS adjusted data compare with data derived from the Handbook method? The answer to this question has caused legal battles for several states against the BLS because of the statistical requirements BLS is using. After CPS adjustment, the unemployment rates (annual averages, 1976) were raised for 26 states and the District of Columbia, were lowered for 23 states, and remained unchanged in one state. Of the 23 states who experienced lower unemployment rates, only 8 were in the original 19 states that used CPS. Four states were in the group added in 1974, and the other 11 were in the group added to CPS in 1976.[9/]

Several states had substantial revisions in the unemployment data - both upward and downward. Therefore, these revisions could have a large impact on the distribution of Federal funds that are tied to these data. Montana took a closer look at these adjustments and decided to take a courageous step - Montana is presently not submitting CPS adjusted unemployment data to BLS as has been required. Most of the dissension with the CPS survey has to do with the sampling error in the CPS control totals. The BLS established as a minimum level of error a standard of 10%

(at one standard error, 68% confidence level) on the level of unemployment at a 6% unemployment rate. This points to the fact that Montana's unemployment rate using CPS adjustment could fall within the range of 5% to 7.3%. But the cutoff point for Federal funding - 6.5% - is a point estimate and does not allow for statistical error.

This inaccuracy of data for some states brings to mind a question - just how important is comparability of data among states? Policy makers must decide whether it is more equitable to use the best data available for each individual area or to emphasize comparability among areas and require adjustment to the CPS control figures. Federal funds are distributed directly to local recipient groups rather than to states. Therefore, consistency is important because data for each of the areas affect the funds received by all other areas. Since BLS has therefore had to be concerned with consistency, they now require annual benchmarking to the CPS control totals. Since these totals are annual averages, they don't become available until early in the year following the year to which the data apply. This has caused controversy because funds were allocated according to preliminary (unbenchmarked) data. The adjustment of data to CPS controls may make data more comparable from one place to another, and make allocation of funds more consistent than under the 70-step method, but a major problem arises due to the fact that some fund allocations take place before the benchmarks have been applied.[9/]

Also, many complaints arise after these revisions are published. Congressmen who based legislative decisions on what they perceived to be fairly accurate information now find that the estimates upon which

they relied have been changed - sometimes quite substantially. To keep things like the above from happening, a way must be found to improve the system so as to minimize the size of revisions to previously published data.[9/]

A step in the right direction was made by Section 13 of the Emergency Jobs Program Extension Act of 1976 which established the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics. This Commission was established to "identify the needs of the Nation for labor force statistics and assess the extent to which current procedures, concepts, and methodology in the collection, analysis, and presentation of such statistics constitute a comprehensive, reliable, timely, and consistent system of measuring employment and unemployment and indicating trends therein."[5/] The last review, the Gordon Committee of 1961 - 1962, had anticipated the desirability for future reviews, and, after 14 years, there is now clearly a need for a new intensive investigation. The new Commission's deliberations are to extend for 18 months, at which time the Secretary of Labor will have six months to react to their findings, including the seeking of any necessary legislation or appropriations for experimentation.[2/]

Because labor force statistics are among the most important indicators of the economic health of this country, this Commission's investigations are expected to be more comprehensive than any preceding one. But the results of their review are still several months away. What is being done in the meantime? The Bureau of Labor Statistics is working to improve the extrapolation procedure so preliminary LAUS estimates and

CPS controls are more nearly alike. Attention is being given to monthly rather than annual adjustment. Using quarterly estimates rather than annual or monthly estimates is also being examined.[9] Meanwhile, billions of dollars in Federal funds are still being allocated, which brings us full circle back to the original question - what is the real unemployment rate?

1/ Baerwald, Friedrich, Economic Progress and Problems of Labor (second edition; Scranton, Pennsylvania: The Haddon Craftsmen, Inc., 1970), pp. 164 - 173.

2/ Bregger, John E., "Establishment of a New Employment Statistics Review Commission", Monthly Labor Review, March 1977, pp. 14 - 17.

3/ Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, PL93-203, 93rd Congress, S.1559, December 28, 1973.

4/ Concepts and Methods Used in Labor Force Statistics Derived from the Current Population Survey (Washington, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1976), pp. 3 - 5.

5/ Emergency Jobs Program Extension Act of 1976, PL 94-444, 94th Congress, H.R. 12987, October 1, 1976.

6/ Estimating State and Local Unemployment: Problems and Perspectives (Phoenix, Arizona Department of Economic Security, 1977) pp. 19 - 21.

7/ Handbook on Estimating Unemployment (Washington, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, 1960) pp. 3 - 10.

8/ New Procedures for Estimating Unemployment in States and Local Areas (Washington, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1974), pp. 1 - 6.

9/ Norwood, Janet L., Congressional Priorities and Statistical Programs: The BLS Labor Force Statistics Program (Washington, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1977).

10/ Reynolds, Lloyd G., Labor Economics and Labor Relations (Sixth edition; Englewood Cliffs: Prentice - Hall, Inc., 1974), pp. 128 - 135.

11/ Wetzel, James R. and Ziegler, Martin, "Measuring Unemployment in States and Local Areas", Monthly Labor Review, June 1974, pp. 40 - 46.

12/ Bregger, John E., "Unemployment Statistics and What They Mean", Monthly Labor Review, November 1971, p. 1.

THIRD QUARTER ANALYSIS

An overview of third quarter economic activity would include such terminology as "continuing moderate growth" and "basic stability". However, while in summary this is an accurate account of the situation, it does not clearly depict the short-term swings away from this trend. For example, during July some interference came from labor disputes. Nearly 3,500 workers were idled in the state pending contract settlements. Although it can not be fully documented, certain local economies geared down for a potentially prolonged work stoppage. Summer hiring patterns were reportedly altered as local businessmen awaited the outcome of negotiations. When the labor disputes ended another obstruction arose. Employment in the lumber and wood products industry began to taper off. Due to temporary layoffs and in some cases mill closures, employment fell to 9,400 in August, which was well below the 10,600 at work in July. There was a slight rebound noted in September as many workers were recalled to jobs, but when the quarter ended employment in the industry was again on a downward slide (reaching 9,000 in October). And finally, agriculture made no significant improvements in the quarter, despite its prominence in the economy during the harvest season. Thus, it is obvious that the economy was under some stress, and yet overall the economic indicators continued to display positive signs throughout the quarter.

Montana's Leading Economic Indicators were as positive as any of the indicators of economic conditions. With the ending of the quarter, ten of the twelve indicators were showing improvement and the remaining two were stable after realizing gains early in the period.

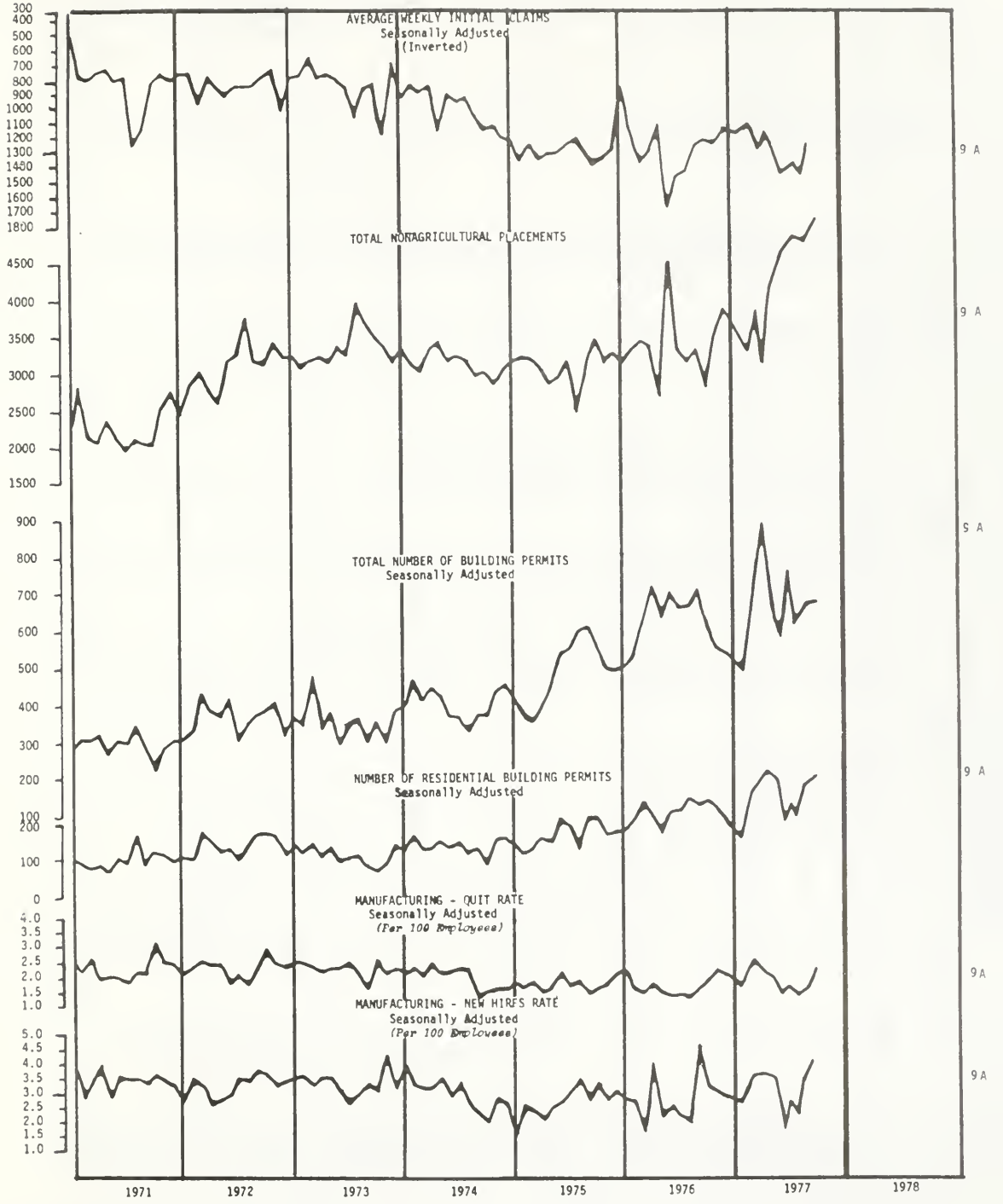
Moreover, almost 80% of the indicators had greatly improved from the previous year. Average weekly hours in manufacturing led these increases. In September average hours jumped to 42.7, the highest level in the previous ten years. This heightened activity in manufacturing bodes well for the economy in the coming months.

At the center of improvements in the Coinciding Indicators was the statewide unemployment rate. September's rate of 5.0% was the lowest since before the recent recession and the 18,100 unemployed for the month compared well with the 21,600 unemployed of a year ago. Other indicators in this category were equally favorable with the exception of new car registrations and manufacturing employment. New car sales have been depressed all year, running 15-20% below last year's activity. The drop in employment in manufacturing is more recent and is closely tied to the problems in the lumber and wood products industry.

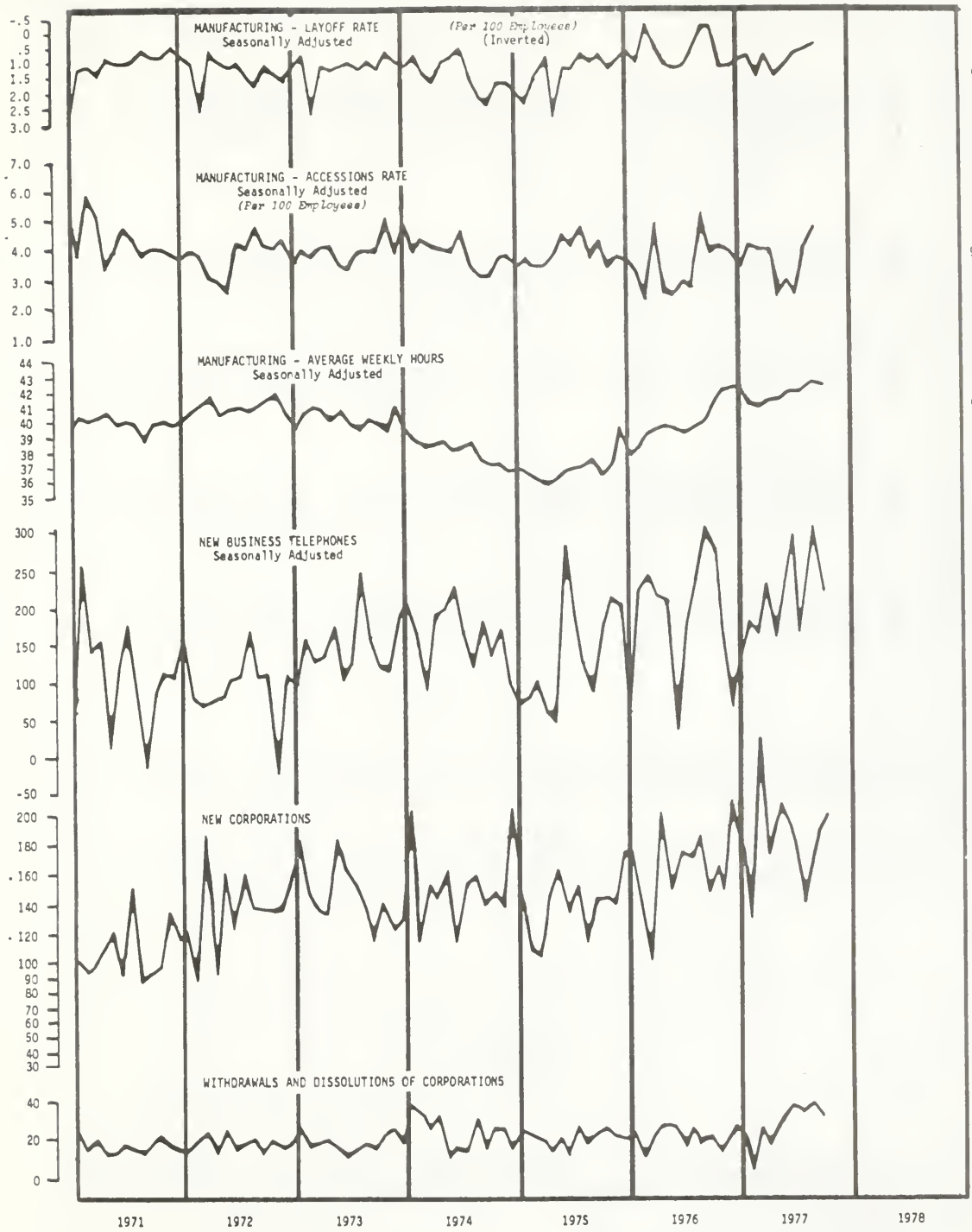
One remaining indicator, the Selected Indicator of real spendable earnings, has done much to reinforce a very positive view of the economy. In recent months real wages have risen to levels witnessed only during the early 1970's. These increases as well as prospective increases in the next few months should go a long way toward maintaining spending momentum as the seasonal downturn in the economy begins.

On the whole, as previously stated, Montana's economy remained on a course of moderate growth during the third quarter. Uncertainty in manufacturing and agriculture persisted, but strength in other areas overcame any deficiencies noted in these two sectors of the economy. Of course, this is not to say that their influence is marginal. It only points out the real stability in many local economies, despite the dependence on one major industrial segment.

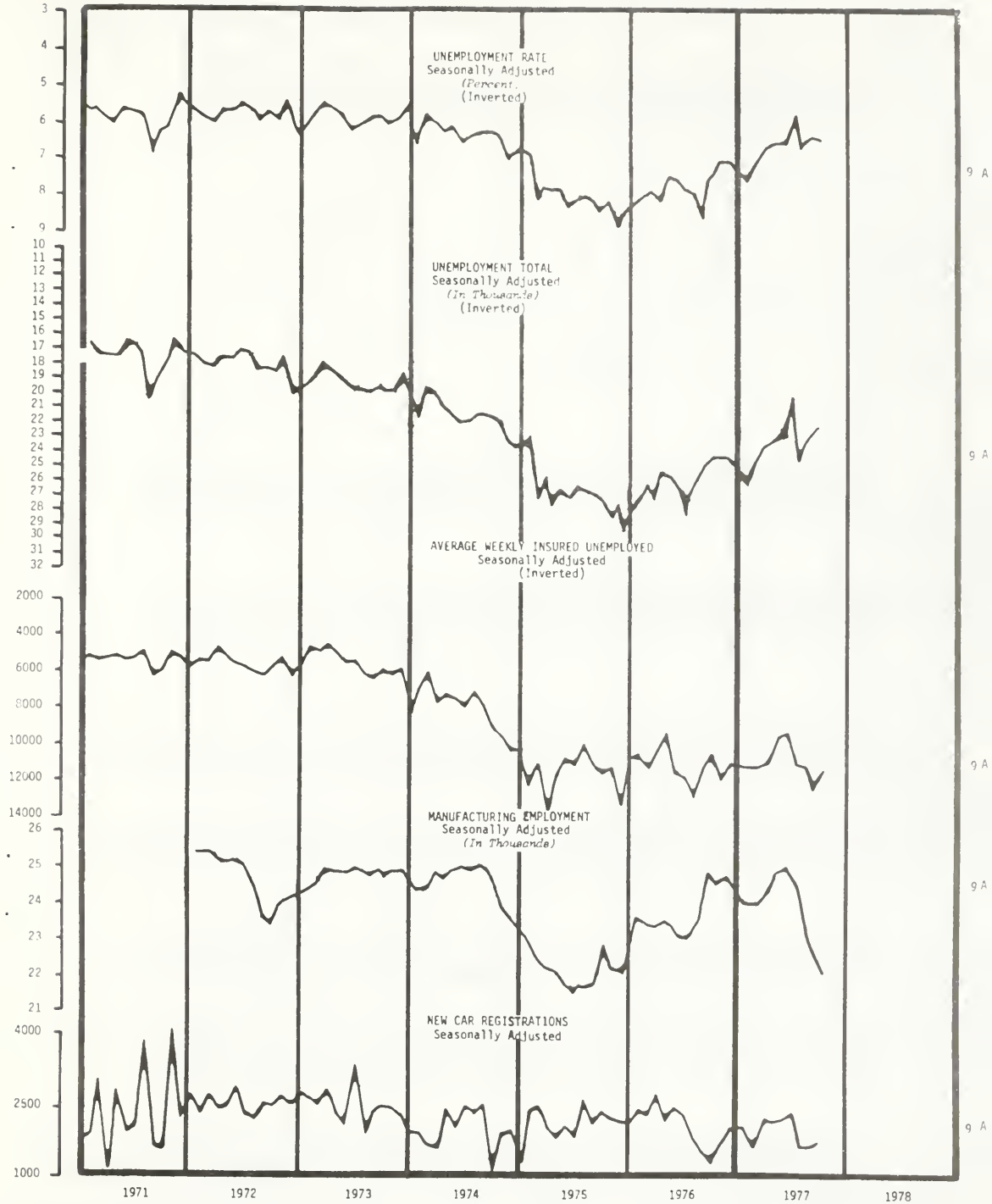
		Average Weekly Initial Claims		Total Nonagricultural Placements		Total Number of Building Permits		Number of Residential Building Permits		MANUFACTURING Quit Rate (Per 100 Employees)		MANUFACTURING New Hires Rate (Per 100 Employees)	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1975	Jan.	1,891	1,231	2,169	3,170	176	411	67	139	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.6
	Feb.	1,449	1,369	2,088	3,220	148	370	59	112	0.7	1.6	0.9	2.5
	Mar.	1,221	1,260	2,476	3,208	302	363	123	123	1.1	1.8	1.7	2.4
	Apr.	1,295	1,359	2,839	3,048	523	400	203	152	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.1
	May	1,057	1,320	3,428	2,859	582	456	176	142	1.6	1.5	3.4	2.5
	Jun.	1,059	1,307	3,476	2,937	699	543	230	207	2.3	2.1	4.8	2.6
	Jul.	1,065	1,267	3,954	3,153	668	557	210	182	1.7	1.6	4.2	3.1
	Aug.	891	1,217	4,236	2,484	730	600	135	124	2.9	1.8	4.2	3.4
	Sep.	989	1,323	3,893	3,095	720	611	228	208	3.1	1.3	3.3	2.8
	Oct.	1,412	1,398	3,735	3,435	644	566	236	208	1.6	1.5	4.0	3.3
	Nov.	1,615	1,350	2,689	3,162	404	503	138	165	1.0	1.6	1.5	2.8
	Dec.	1,744	1,280	2,044	3,289	283	493	127	170	1.3	2.0	1.6	3.0
1976	Jan.	1,501	840	2,154	3,141	276	514	107	179	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.8
	Feb.	1,240	1,162	2,209	3,337	319	545	148	200	0.6	1.5	1.1	2.7
	Mar.	1,326	1,378	2,744	3,475	553	618	251	254	0.6	1.3	0.9	1.7
	Apr.	1,249	1,309	3,247	3,432	845	723	259	209	1.4	1.6	3.6	4.0
	May	845	1,106	3,271	2,698	767	639	198	165	1.4	1.3	3.1	2.2
	Jun.	1,419	1,670	5,035	4,506	860	700	250	225	1.4	1.2	4.7	2.5
	Jul.	1,268	1,466	4,137	3,324	781	668	264	234	1.5	1.2	3.3	2.2
	Aug.	1,090	1,425	4,932	3,188	807	672	274	262	2.3	1.1	2.8	2.0
	Sep.	897	1,238	4,137	3,344	834	719	261	241	3.3	1.5	5.0	4.6
	Oct.	1,248	1,221	3,142	2,828	692	614	284	256	1.8	1.8	4.0	3.3
	Nov.	1,507	1,232	3,020	3,519	443	553	205	235	1.6	2.2	1.9	3.2
	Dec.	1,585	1,125	2,644	3,891	324	536	141	183	1.2	1.9	1.7	3.1
1977	Jan.	1,853	1,192	2,527	3,508	232	472	86	158	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.4
	Feb.	1,209	1,132	2,238	3,365	467	696	226	277	1.6	2.5	1.8	3.4
	Mar.	1,252	1,310	3,139	3,869	831	898	387	391	1.3	2.0	2.6	3.4
	Apr.	1,123	1,182	3,013	3,186	765	643	410	361	1.7	1.9	2.9	3.3
	May	1,026	1,286	4,696	4,120	710	581	210	177	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.7
	Jun.	1,237	1,489	5,109	4,585	905	742	266	240	1.9	1.7	4.8	2.6
	Jul.	1,201	1,398	5,649	4,830	720	606	231	199	1.5	1.2	3.2	2.1
	Aug.	1,107	1,447	6,469	4,729	788	650	289	276	2.7	1.5	4.0	3.2
	Sep.	938	1,283	5,800	5,010	790	673	335	315	3.6	1.9	4.3	3.9
	Oct.												
	Nov.												
	Dec.												


AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS
TOTAL NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted
NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted
MANUFACTURING - QUIT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - NEW HIRES RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

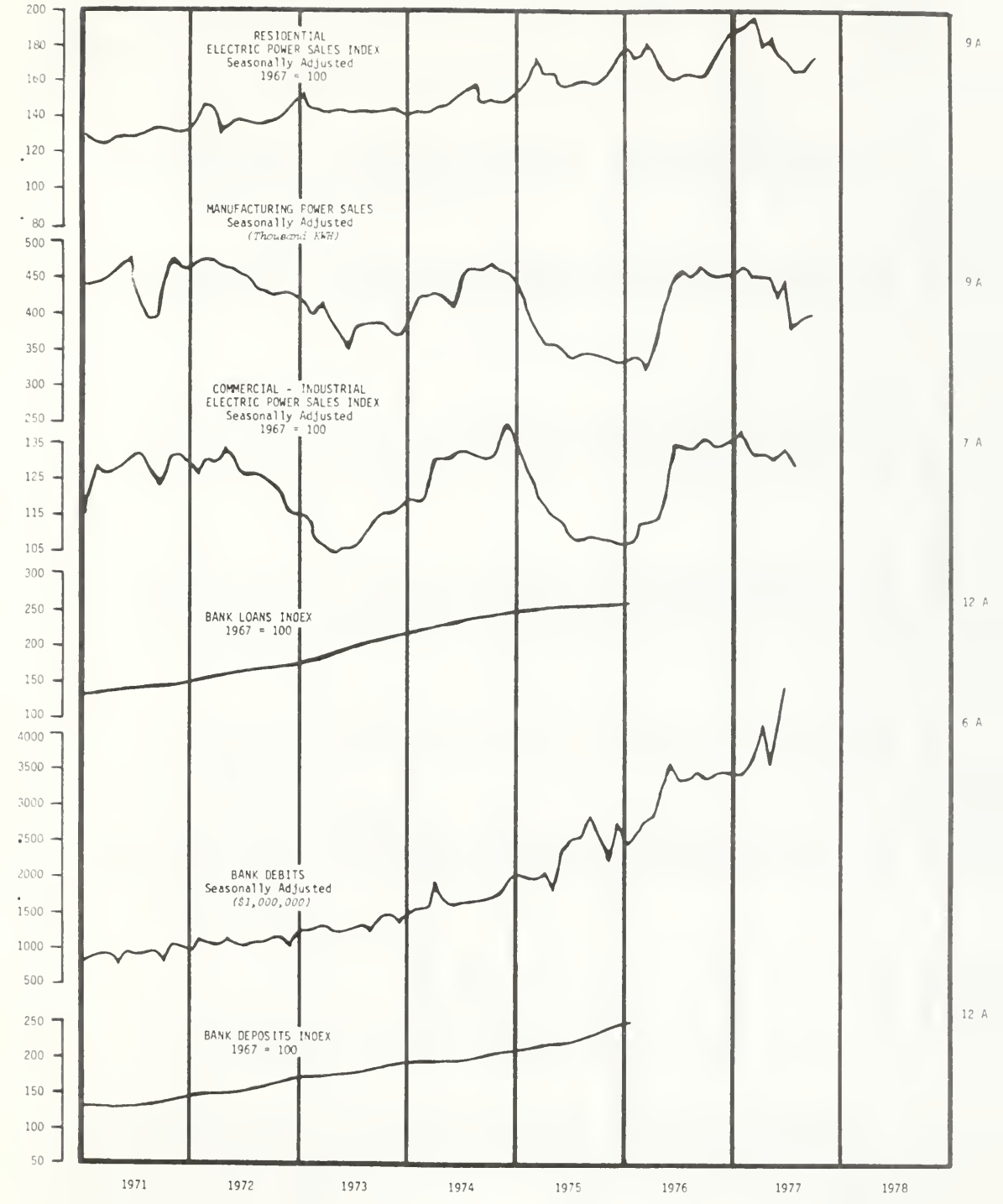
		MANUFACTURING									
		Layoff Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Accessions Rate		Average Weekly Hours		New Business Telephones		New Corporations	Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ		
1975	Jan.	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.3	37.2	36.9	89	66	138	25
	Feb.	2.3	2.4	2.0	3.6	36.3	36.7	64	73	104	20
	Mar.	1.8	1.4	2.6	3.3	35.8	36.1	136	96	102	18
	Apr.	0.6	0.8	3.0	3.3	35.1	35.8	82	53	138	11
	May	2.2	2.8	4.9	3.7	35.9	36.0	188	40	161	19
	Jun.	0.5	1.2	7.4	4.4	36.7	36.6	398	278	132	10
	Jul.	1.1	1.2	4.9	4.0	36.0	36.8	229	190	148	26
	Aug.	0.7	0.7	5.1	4.6	37.2	36.9	38	122	109	15
	Sep.	1.2	1.0	4.0	3.6	38.1	37.4	1	80	139	22
	Oct.	1.0	0.7	4.5	4.0	37.3	36.2	131	164	142	23
	Nov.	1.7	1.2	1.7	3.3	36.6	37.1	106	207	137	20
	Dec.	1.2	0.8	2.0	3.6	39.8	39.5	112	199	171	18
1976	Jan.	0.4	0.6	2.8	3.4	38.1	37.8	77	57	170	21
	Feb.	0.9	1.0	1.5	3.1	37.9	38.3	207	217	132	8
	Mar.	0.1	-0.3	1.5	2.2	38.7	39.1	276	235	101	20
	Apr.	0.4	0.6	4.5	4.8	38.6	39.3	236	210	198	23
	May	0.5	1.1	3.6	2.4	39.7	39.7	349	203	144	22
	Jun.	0.5	1.3	5.4	2.4	39.6	39.4	155	31	170	15
	Jul.	1.1	1.2	3.7	2.8	38.4	39.2	206	167	167	25
	Aug.	0.7	0.7	3.1	2.6	39.8	39.5	140	232	134	17
	Sep.	0.4	0.2	5.4	5.1	40.6	39.9	223	301	145	21
	Oct.	0.5	0.2	4.4	3.8	42.1	41.1	242	270	163	13
	Nov.	1.8	1.2	2.3	3.9	41.7	42.2	58	157	146	22
	Dec.	1.6	1.2	2.3	3.8	42.6	42.3	-26	63	208	27
1977	Jan.	0.7	0.9	2.8	3.4	42.5	42.2	203	185	173	20
	Feb.	0.7	0.8	2.5	4.1	40.6	41.0	157	167	125	6
	Mar.	2.0	1.6	3.2	3.9	40.4	40.8	284	242	249	25
	Apr.	0.5	0.7	3.7	4.0	40.5	41.3	178	154	172	17
	May	0.9	1.5	3.3	2.1	41.4	41.4	371	226	203	26
	Jun.	0.4	1.2	5.8	2.8	41.9	41.7	412	286	187	38
	Jul.	0.6	0.7	3.4	2.5	40.9	41.7	203	163	139	28
	Aug.	0.5	0.6	4.4	3.9	42.6	42.3	204	299	182	40
	Sep.	0.6	0.4	4.8	4.5	42.7	42.0	141	219	199	28
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


MANUFACTURING - LAYOFF RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
(Inverted)
-.5
0
.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
9A
MANUFACTURING - ACCESSIONS RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
9 A
MANUFACTURING - AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS
Seasonally Adjusted
44
43
42
41
40
39
38
37
36
35
9 A
NEW BUSINESS TELEPHONES
Seasonally Adjusted
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
-50
9 A
9 A
NEW CORPORATIONS
200
180
160
140
120
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
WITHDRAWALS AND DISSOLUTIONS OF CORPORATIONS
40
20
0
9 A
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

		Unemployment Rate *(Percent)*		Unemployment Total *(in Thousands)*		Average Weekly Insured Unemployed		Manufacturing Employment *(in Thousands)*		New Car Registrations	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1975	Jan.	9.4	7.1	28.9	23.1	14,013	10,397	21.9	23.0	485	1,352
	Feb.	10.2	8.2	31.4	27.1	16,960	12,412	21.3	22.3	2,145	2,448
	Mar.	9.2	7.9	29.3	25.8	14,015	11,260	20.9	22.1	2,620	2,607
	Apr.	8.7	7.9	28.0	27.7	15,065	13,828	21.1	22.0	2,340	2,040
	May	7.2	7.9	23.6	26.8	10,669	11,629	21.2	21.7	1,999	1,825
	Jun.	8.4	8.3	29.4	27.2	8,430	10,780	22.3	21.6	2,080	2,048
	Jul.	7.4	8.1	25.6	26.3	9,290	11,190	23.1	21.7	2,197	1,878
	Aug.	6.6	8.0	23.0	26.6	7,530	10,132	23.3	21.7	2,913	2,650
	Sep.	6.6	8.1	22.5	26.8	7,526	11,125	23.0	21.8	2,263	2,124
	Oct.	7.3	8.4	24.2	28.0	9,202	11,599	23.2	22.8	2,809	2,457
	Nov.	8.0	8.1	26.6	27.6	11,430	11,383	22.2	22.2	2,334	2,290
	Dec.	9.1	8.7	30.1	29.6	15,027	13,385	21.6	22.1	1,773	2,221
1976	Jan.	10.4	8.1	32.8	27.1	14,264	10,706	22.5	23.6	1,339	2,259
	Feb.	9.7	7.9	30.8	26.5	15,281	10,658	22.4	23.4	2,273	2,535
	Mar.	9.4	8.1	30.6	27.1	14,187	11,450	22.1	23.3	2,364	2,374
	Apr.	7.7	7.5	25.6	25.3	11,593	10,318	22.6	23.5	3,080	2,784
	May	6.6	7.6	22.4	25.6	8,543	9,480	22.7	23.3	2,462	2,292
	Jun.	8.1	7.9	28.7	26.3	9,180	11,581	23.7	23.0	2,621	2,586
	Jul.	7.3	8.0	26.4	27.0	9,875	11,768	24.4	23.0	2,698	2,345
	Aug.	7.0	8.5	25.2	28.9	9,888	12,533	24.9	23.3	2,245	1,929
	Sep.	6.2	7.7	21.6	26.0	7,598	11,330	24.8	23.6	1,765	1,636
	Oct.	6.2	7.3	20.9	24.8	8,274	10,673	25.2	24.8	1,617	1,300
	Nov.	7.0	7.1	23.2	24.1	12,023	11,860	24.5	24.5	1,745	1,739
	Dec.	7.5	7.1	24.6	24.2	12,890	11,208	24.2	24.7	1,654	2,094
1977	Jan.	9.7	7.5	31.9	26.2	14,516	10,987	22.9	24.0	1,158	2,104
	Feb.	8.8	7.1	29.4	25.1	15,593	10,933	23.0	24.0	1,455	1,696
	Mar.	8.0	6.8	27.0	23.6	13,072	10,345	23.1	24.3	2,181	2,203
	Apr.	6.9	6.7	23.7	23.3	10,912	9,618	23.9	24.8	2,324	2,029
	May	5.7	6.7	19.9	23.2	8,270	9,196	24.4	25.0	2,279	2,110
	Jun.	6.2	5.9	22.8	20.3	8,198	10,624	25.1	24.4	2,462	2,426
	Jul.	6.3	6.9	23.8	24.4	9,024	10,913	24.3	23.0	1,906	1,536
	Aug.	5.1	6.5	19.4	23.1	9,421	12,088	24.0	22.4	1,911	1,568
	Sep.	5.1	6.4	18.3	22.8	7,631	11,429	23.3	22.1	1,774	1,649
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

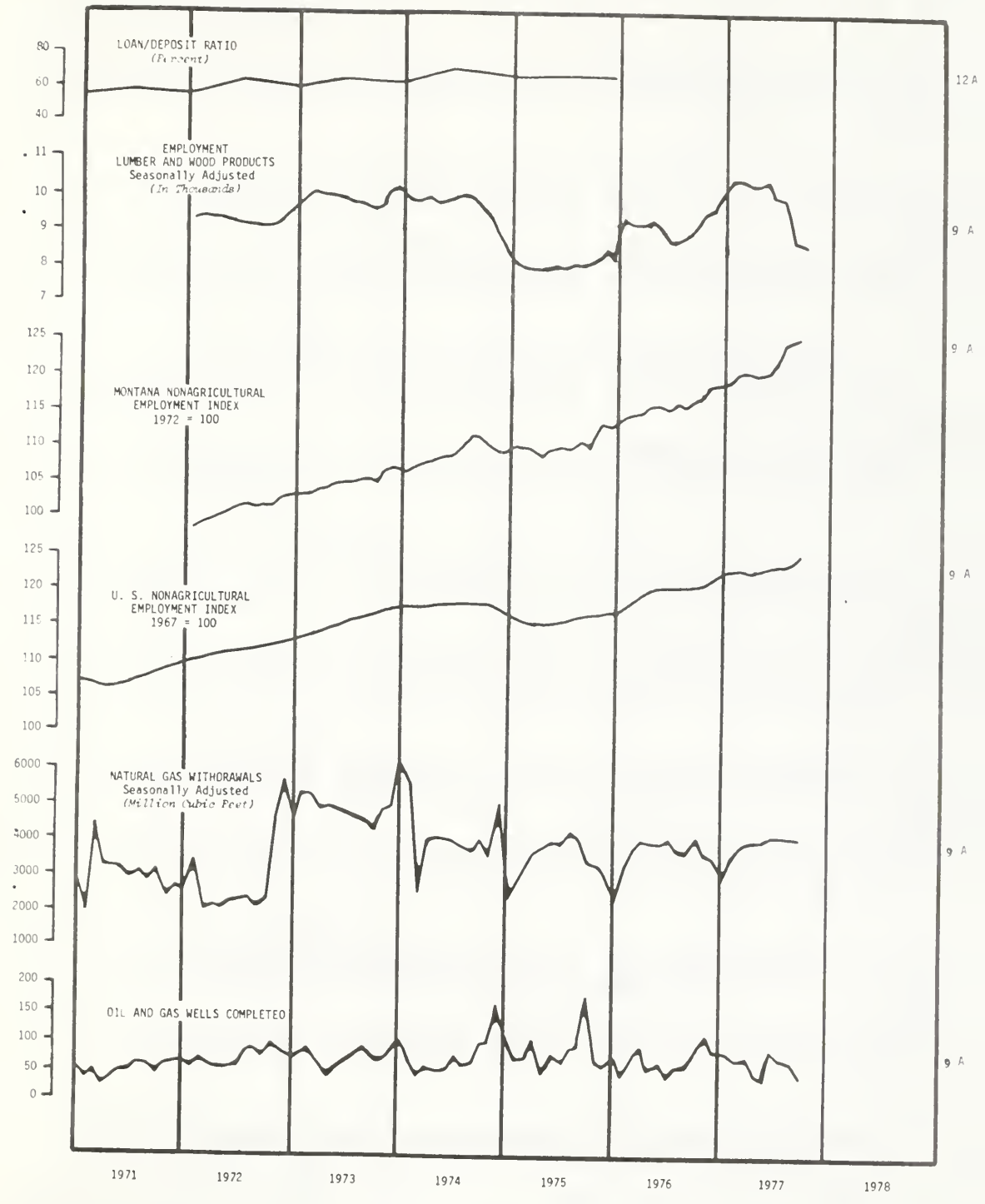

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Percent)
(Inverted)
UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
(Inverted)
AVERAGE WEEKLY INSURED UNEMPLOYED
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS
Seasonally Adjusted
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
2000
4000
6000
8000
10000
12000
14000
26
25
24
23
22
21
4000
2500
1000
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

		Residential Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Manufacturing Power Sales (Thousand KWH)		Commercial-Industrial Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Bank Loans Index	Bank Deposits Index	Bank Debits ($1,000,000)	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	1967 = 100		UNADJ	ADJ
1975	Jan.	188.5	150.7	424.2	404.4	127.4	126.3			2,069.7	2,001.3
	Feb.	191.3	157.4	388.4	387.0	119.9	122.3			1,648.6	1,950.1
	Mar.	181.7	169.6	373.9	360.3	117.0	118.1			1,863.7	1,994.2
	Apr.	163.8	160.9	351.3	348.4	110.3	111.6			1,932.1	2,027.4
	May	155.5	163.4	349.1	351.2	111.0	111.3			1,986.2	1,878.4
	Jun.	139.0	158.0	321.3	335.0	102.5	105.7	252.0	225.2	2,388.2	2,340.7
	Jul.	137.1	156.5	317.8	325.2	102.7	102.9			2,631.5	2,501.8
	Aug.	141.1	157.8	319.7	332.8	103.6	103.6			2,567.9	2,504.4
	Sep.	141.1	159.8	318.7	335.4	105.7	104.7			2,740.6	2,807.5
	Oct.	135.9	153.6	329.2	329.6	105.0	105.7			2,544.6	2,526.0
	Nov.	159.1	163.2	331.2	326.4	111.9	107.5			2,362.4	2,365.2
	Dec.	187.7	168.9	332.5	320.9	112.0	108.9	252.0	244.1	2,877.1	2,704.1
1976	Jan.	216.8	178.9	346.2	325.9	115.7	114.5			2,459.9	2,480.7
	Feb.	201.1	166.9	331.7	330.1	110.4	112.8			2,252.2	2,576.0
	Mar.	191.7	179.9	324.8	311.5	113.3	114.5			2,611.8	2,755.3
	Apr.	168.7	165.5	347.5	345.1	112.2	113.7			2,714.4	2,812.6
	May	154.5	162.4	403.0	406.7	123.2	123.8	SERIES		3,338.3	3,219.8
	Jun.	139.4	158.7	424.5	439.0	133.4	136.4			3,626.1	3,575.0
	Jul.	145.1	164.4	441.3	448.6	134.7	135.0	DISCONTINUED		3,467.2	3,318.7
	Aug.	150.0	166.1	424.8	437.6	135.1	135.3			3,421.0	3,348.9
	Sep.	148.9	167.6	442.2	458.4	139.2	138.1			3,372.8	3,433.3
	Oct.	145.4	163.3	444.4	444.1	134.4	135.3			3,346.3	3,342.5
	Nov.	169.0	173.4	441.9	437.3	138.6	134.0			3,396.7	3,412.7
	Dec.	204.2	185.4	454.5	443.0	137.2	133.6			3,630.3	3,445.6
1977	Jan.	228.3	190.4	468.2	462.2	137.5	136.2			3,481.6	3,412.0
	Feb.	231.9	197.6	423.4	444.7	129.0	131.4			3,243.2	3,578.0
	Mar.	193.3	181.6	429.4	441.8	125.6	126.8			3,967.4	4,117.4
	Apr.	188.2	184.9	415.7	435.8	125.6	127.3			3,464.0	3,563.6
	May	163.0	170.8	421.7	417.7	124.6	125.4			4,164.6	4,040.7
	Jun.	154.5	173.9	420.4	427.7	127.4	130.4			4,717.2	4,664.3
	Jul.	148.5	167.6	390.0	382.6	121.9	122.2				
	Aug.	151.7	167.6	398.5	399.7					SERIES	
	Sep.	154.8	173.6	409.5	409.3						
	Oct.									DISCONTINUED	
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

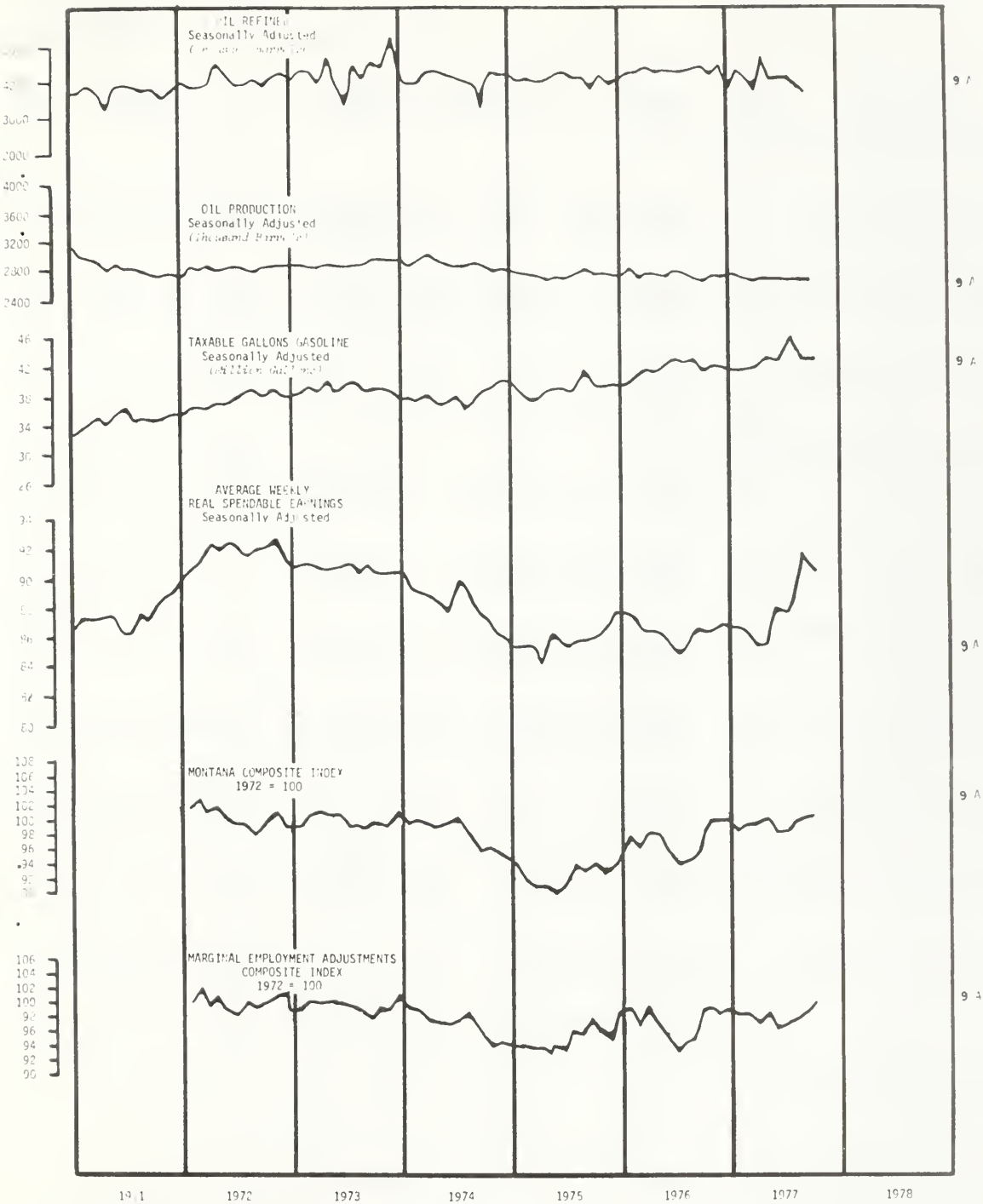

RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
MANUFACTURING POWER SALES
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand KWH)
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
BANK LOANS INDEX
1967 = 100
BANK DEBITS
Seasonally Adjusted
($1,000,000)
BANK DEPOSITS INDEX
1967 = 100
9 A
9 A
7 A
12 A
6 A
12 A
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

		Loan/ Deposit Ratio *(Percent)*	Employment- Lumber and Wood Products *(in Thousands)*		Nonagricultural Employment Index		Natural Gas Withdrawals *(Million Cu.Ft.)*		Oil and Gas Wells Completed
		UNADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	MONTANA*	U. S. **	UNADJ	ADJ	
1975	Jan.		7.3	8.0	110.4	115.3	4,096	2,420	88
	Feb.		7.3	7.9	110.3	114.7	3,605	2,936	55
	Mar.		7.3	7.9	110.2	114.6	3,914	3,348	61
	Apr.		7.2	7.9	108.9	114.9	3,199	3,662	92
	May		7.8	8.0	109.5	114.8	3,118	3,798	32
	Jun.	*64.5*	8.4	7.9	110.0	115.1	3,202	3,994	66
	Jul.		8.7	8.0	109.8	115.6	3,157	3,946	52
	Aug.		8.9	8.0	110.6	116.0	3,737	4,357	73
	Sep.		8.8	8.1	109.5	115.8	3,510	4,135	79
	Oct.		8.5	8.2	112.2	115.9	3,899	3,463	166
	Nov.		8.4	8.4	113.4	116.1	4,023	3,462	63
	Dec.	*60.3*	8.0	8.3	112.8	116.5	4,213	3,138	57
1976	Jan.		8.6	9.3	114.1	117.6	4,182	2,544	77
	Feb.		8.5	9.1	114.5	118.1	3,996	3,381	40
	Mar.		8.5	9.1	114.6	118.6	4,262	3,700	75
	Apr.		8.5	9.2	115.5	119.0	3,539	4,003	87
	May		8.8	9.0	115.6	119.5	3,294	3,957	46
	Jun.	SERIES	9.1	8.7	114.2	119.4	3,138	3,903	59
	Jul.		9.4	8.7	116.8	119.7	3,244	4,014	30
	Aug.	DISCONTINUED	9.8	8.9	116.9	119.8	3,227	3,793	50
	Sep.		9.8	9.1	118.5	119.8	3,130	3,738	64
	Oct.		9.7	9.4	118.5	119.7	3,503	4,036	63
	Nov.		9.6	9.6	119.8	120.5	4,180	3,669	104
	Dec.		9.6	9.9	120.4	120.8	4,516	3,504	81
1977	Jan.		9.6	10.3	119.0	121.2	4,734	3,114	79
	Feb.		9.7	10.3	119.8	121.8	4,231	3,642	58
	Mar.		9.5	10.1	120.2	121.0	4,557	3,997	65
	Apr.		9.4	10.1	120.6	123.0	3,815	4,279	47
	May		10.0	10.2	121.0	123.4	3,637	4,291	41
	Jun.		10.3	9.9	121.0	123.8	3,599	4,350	77
	Jul.		10.5	9.8	121.6	123.8	3,456	4,216	59
	Aug.		9.4	8.5	124.6	124.1	3,591	4,130	51
	Sep.		9.1	8.4	124.8	124.6	3,518	4,117	35
	Oct.								
	Nov.								
	Dec.								

* *MONTANA: 1972 = 100* ** *U.S.: 1967 = 100*


LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO
(Percent)
80
60
40
EMPLOYMENT
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
11
10
9
8
7
MONTANA NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
1972 = 100
125
120
115
110
105
100
U. S. NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
1967 = 100
125
120
115
110
105
100
NATURAL GAS WITHDRAWALS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million Cubic Feet)
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
OIL AND GAS WELLS COMPLETED
200
150
100
50
0
12 A
9 A
9 A
9 A
9 A
9 A
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

		Oil Refined (Thousand Barrels)		Oil Production (Thousand Barrels)		Taxable Gallons Gasoline (Thousand Gallons)		Gross Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Spendable Earnings		MONTANA Composite Index	Marqina Employ Adjust Index
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	1972=100	1972=10
1975	Jan.	4,269	4,181	2,768	2,773	32,027	39,051	152.28	154.75	83.19	84.54	92.5	94.1
	Feb.	3,610	3,917	2,548	2,765	28,261	37,482	152.80	156.31	82.90	84.70	90.5	93.6
	Mar.	3,969	4,009	2,854	2,757	30,835	36,267	155.09	157.53	83.58	85.15	90.1	93.8
	Apr.	3,506	3,940	2,701	2,736	32,217	36,072	154.22	156.89	82.77	83.69	90.3	93.9
	May	3,547	3,983	2,767	2,679	38,603	29,262	157.24	158.32	85.48	85.48	89.5	93.2
	Jun.	4,229	4,093	2,683	2,728	42,723	38,624	160.81	159.72	86.37	85.56	91.7	95.9
	Jul.	4,599	4,195	2,707	2,707	51,173	38,386	163.52	160.61	86.63	85.05	91.9	95.8
	Aug.	4,436	4,003	2,793	2,745	51,450	37,524	165.07	161.26	87.04	85.42	93.4	97.5
	Sep.	4,135	4,041	2,777	2,801	43,364	40,985	165.53	162.38	86.81	85.26	92.6	96.0
	Oct.	3,670	3,777	2,778	2,707	39,571	38,992	165.98	163.35	86.48	85.43	94.0	95.4
	Nov.	4,181	4,086	2,694	2,731	33,913	37,197	165.34	165.56	85.67	86.02	92.1	94.9
	Dec.	3,947	3,877	2,775	2,713	34,242	38,366	167.81	168.74	86.36	86.87	94.2	98.2
1976	Jan.	4,136	4,046	2,732	2,736	31,913	38,838	165.89	168.42	85.35	86.72	97.2	98.9
	Feb.	3,809	4,130	2,611	2,828	29,664	38,924	164.98	168.58	84.77	86.62	95.7	96.8
	Mar.	4,117	4,168	2,805	2,708	34,652	40,211	163.70	166.13	84.02	85.63	97.6	99.3
	Apr.	3,892	4,309	2,707	2,740	36,979	40,836	165.50	168.38	84.44	85.40	96.9	97.2
	May	3,709	4,138	2,819	2,732	40,059	40,908	168.84	169.98	85.31	85.28	95.0	95.4
	Jun.	4,342	4,205	2,665	2,713	45,853	41,823	170.88	169.85	85.69	84.91	93.3	93.4
	Jul.	4,613	4,189	2,758	2,763	54,836	41,862	172.67	169.75	85.92	84.36	93.9	94.4
	Aug.	4,612	4,180	2,800	2,749	55,278	41,528	175.69	171.72	86.77	85.09	94.8	94.9
	Sep.	4,331	4,246	2,650	2,671	44,233	41,811	178.92	175.75	87.22	86.18	98.1	98.7
	Oct.	4,167	4,280	2,736	2,666	40,610	39,928	177.79	175.08	86.90	85.85	99.3	98.7
	Nov.	4,206	4,106	2,738	2,776	37,794	41,127	175.02	175.25	85.54	85.90	98.3	98.3
	Dec.	4,390	4,341	2,770	2,708	36,437	40,372	175.78	176.63	85.62	86.06	98.8	98.7
1977	Jan.	3,858	3,767	2,757	2,759	33,237	40,112	175.94	178.50	85.17	86.55	97.2	98.3
	Feb.	3,923	4,252	2,505	2,723	31,499	40,778	176.00	179.65	84.35	86.22	98.3	98.4
	Mar.	3,983	4,040	2,787	2,689	35,958	41,581	174.94	177.37	83.40	85.03	98.3	96.8
	Apr.	3,200	3,609	2,737	2,768	39,534	43,392	178.69	181.68	84.21	85.20	99.2	98.4
	May	4,226	4,651	2,795	2,710	41,227	42,172	184.79	185.96	87.94	87.89	97.3	95.6
	Jun.	4,281	4,143	2,666	2,717	49,224	45,228	185.26	184.26	87.77	87.00	97.6	96.2
	Jul.	4,582	4,149	2,734	2,741	55,279	42,212	190.97	188.05	89.63	88.08	98.0	96.6
	Aug.	4,433	4,002	2,838	2,786	56,186	42,524	200.28	196.24	92.96	91.26	98.6	98.4
	Sep.	3,935	3,855	2,743	2,762	44,888	42,444	197.89	194.72	91.67	90.13	99.0	99.4
	Oct.												
	Nov.												
	Dec.												


OIL REFINED
Seasonally Adjusted
OIL PRODUCTION
Seasonally Adjusted
TAXABLE GALLONS GASOLINE
Seasonally Adjusted
AVERAGE WEEKLY
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS
Seasonally Adjusted
MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX
1972 = 100
MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENTS
COMPOSITE INDEX
1972 = 100
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1977		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
LEADING INDICATORS							
Initial Claims							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept:	1,283	1,447	1,238	-11.3	3.6
Unadjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept:	938	1,107	897	-15.3	4.6
Nonagricultural Placements							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept:	5,010	4,729	3,344	5.9	49.8
Unadjusted	Number	Sept:	5,800	6,469	4,137	-10.3	40.2
Total Building Permits							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept:	673	650	719	3.5	-6.4
Unadjusted	Number	Sept:	790	788	834	0.3	-5.3
Residential Building Permits							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept:	315	276	241	14.1	30.7
Unadjusted	Number	Sept:	335	289	261	15.9	28.4
Quit Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	1.9	1.5	1.5	26.7	0.0
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	3.6	2.7	3.3	33.3	9.1
New Hires Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	3.9	3.2	4.6	21.9	-15.2
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	4.3	4.0	5.0	7.5	-14.0
Layoff Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	0.4	0.6	0.2	-33.3	100.0
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	0.6	0.5	0.4	20.0	50.0
Accession Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	4.5	3.9	5.1	15.4	-11.8
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept:	4.8	4.4	5.4	9.1	-11.1
Average Weekly Hours-Mfg.							
Seasonally Adjusted	Hours	Sept:	42.0	42.3	39.9	-0.7	5.3
Unadjusted	Hours	Sept:	42.7	42.6	40.6	0.2	5.2
New Business Telephones							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept:	219	299	301	-26.8	-27.2
Unadjusted	Number	Sept:	141	204	223	-30.9	-36.8
New Corporations	Number	Sept:	199	182	145	9.3	37.2
Withdrawals & Dissolution of Corporations	Number	Sept:	28	40	21	-30.0	33.3

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1977		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
COINCIDING INDICATORS							
Unemployment Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Percent	Sept:	6.4	6.5	7.7	-1.5	-16.9
Unadjusted	Percent	Sept:	5.1	5.1	6.2	0.0	-17.7
Unemployment Total							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept:	22.8	23.1	26.0	-1.3	-12.3
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept:	18.3	19.4	21.6	-5.7	-15.3
Insured Unemployed							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.Wkly.No.	Sept:	11,429	12,088	11,330	-5.5	0.9
Unadjusted	Avg.Wkly.No.	Sept:	7,631	9,421	7,598	-19.0	0.4
Manufacturing Employment							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept:	22.1	22.4	23.6	-1.3	-6.4
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept:	23.3	24.0	24.8	-2.9	-6.0
New Car Registrations							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept:	1,649	1,568	1,636	5.2	0.8
Unadjusted	Number	Sept:	1,774	1,911	1,765	-7.2	0.5
Residential Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Sept:	173.6	167.6	167.6	3.6	3.6
Unadjusted	Index	Sept:	154.8	151.7	148.9	2.0	4.0
Manufacturing Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous. KWH	Sept:	409.3	399.7	458.4	2.4	-10.7
Unadjusted	Thous. KWH	Sept:	409.5	398.5	442.2	2.8	-7.4
Commercial - Industrial Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	July:	122.2	130.4	135.0	-6.3	-9.5
Unadjusted	Index	July:	121.9	127.4	134.7	4.3	-9.5
Bank Loans	Index 1977	Information not available.					
Bank Debits							
Seasonally Adjusted		SERIES DISCONTINUED					
Unadjusted							
Bank Deposits	Index 1977	Information not available.					

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1977		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
SELECTED INDICATORS							
Employment - Lumber and Wood Products							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept:	8.4	8.5	9.1	-1.2	-7.7
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept:	9.1	9.4	9.8	-3.2	-7.1
Montana Nonag. Employment	Index	Sept:	124.8	124.6	118.5	0.2	5.3
U. S. Nonag. Employment	Index	Sept:	124.6	124.1	119.9	0.4	3.9
Natural Gas Withdrawals							
Seasonally Adjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Sept:	4,117	4,130	3,738	-0.3	10.1
Unadjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Sept:	3,518	3,591	3,130	-2.0	12.4
Oil & Gas Wells Completed	Number	Sept:	35	51	64	-31.4	-45.3
Oil Refined							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous. Bbls	Sept:	3,855	4,002	4,246	-3.7	-9.2
Unadjusted	Thous. Bbls	Sept:	3,935	4,443	4,331	-11.2	-9.1
Oil Production							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous. Bbls.	Sept:	2,762	2,786	2,671	-0.9	3.4
Unadjusted	Thous. Bbls	Sept:	2,743	2,838	2,650	-3.3	3.5
Taxable Gallons Gasoline							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous. Gals	Sept:	42,444	42,524	41,811	-0.2	1.5
Unadjusted	Thous. Gals	Sept:	44,888	56,186	44,233	-20.1	1.5
Average Weekly Real Spendable Earnings							
Seasonally Adjusted	Dollars	Sept:	90.13	91.26	86.18	-1.2	4.6
Unadjusted	Dollars	Sept:	91.67	92.96	87.22	-1.4	5.1
Loan/Deposit Ratio	Percent 1977	Information not available.					
COMPOSITE INDICATORS							
Montana Composite Index	Index	Sept:	99.0	98.6	98.1	0.4	0.9
Marginal Employment Index	Index	Sept:	99.4	98.4	98.7	1.0	0.7

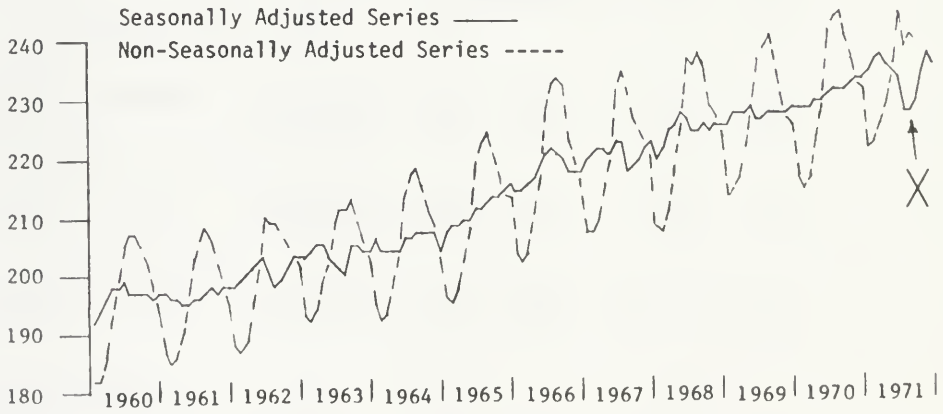
APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY

Seasonal Adjustment - A mathematical procedure in which certain monthly or yearly variations such as climate, holidays, vacation practices, etc., are removed from the statistics. The purpose of this is to simplify analysis over a long period of time and to highlight such non-seasonal occurances as strikes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted - or "raw" data will not always reflect such occurances precisely because of seasonal influences. For example, the following chart is a graph of total nonagricultural employment for the State of Montana for the years 1960 to 1971.

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT - MONTANA



Note the erratic nature of the non-adjusted data, and that a non-seasonal phenomena occurred in 1971 directly above the "X" mark. During this period a labor-management dispute occurred and the seasonally adjusted figures emphasize this point whereas the dispute is not readily apparent in the non-adjusted data. A word of caution is due at this point about non-adjusted and adjusted data. Adjusted data is not a "substitute" for actual data, and should in no way be used as such.

Economic Indicators - Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycle turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of current, and the anticipation of prospective, business conditions.

Leading Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in total business activity. The peaks and troughs of this type of indicator generally occur from three to several months previous to the peak or trough in total business activity.

Coincidental Indicators - An economic series that tends to parallel the same general pattern of total business activity.

Selected Indicators - A cyclical time series whose true value as an economic indicator is not yet known.

Lagging Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction (reach its peaks or troughs) some time after the total business pattern has changed.

Other Indicators - A statistical series that combines the cyclical changes of the other types of economic indicators. For example, personal income generally lags at the peaks, and leads at the troughs of total business activity.

Montana Composite Index - A composite of six leading indicators of employment and economic activity: Building Permits, Manufacturing Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Accession Rate and Layoff Rate. A reverse trend has been used for Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The components are converted to series of standardized changes and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators in making the composite. This composite index is not comparable to the U. S. composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

Marginal Employment Adjustments Index - A composite of four leading indicators of employment changes or adjustments: Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Layoff Rate, and Accession Rate. In producing the composite these components are seasonally adjusted, converted to series of standardized changes, and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators. This composite indicator tends to lead changes in the unemployment rate by approximately five months.

Labor Turnover - The movement of wage and salary workers in and out of employment status.

Accessions - All permanent or temporary additions to the employment rolls, which include new hires and other accessions.

New Hires - Permanent and temporary additions to employment rolls of persons who have never been employed by a specific reporting establishment. This includes former employees who have been rehired although not specifically recalled by the reporting employer.

Other Accessions - Additions to the employment rolls of transfers from other establishments of the same company; employees returning from military service or unpaid leaves of absence; employees specifically recalled by an employer.

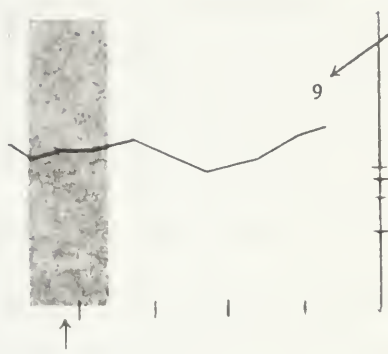
Separations - The termination of employment of persons who quit, are laid off, discharged, retire, die, are inducted into the military for service exceeding 30 consecutive days, suffer physical disabilities, or are transferred to other divisions of the same company.

Quits - The termination of employment initiated by an employee for any reason other than retirement, transfer, or service in the Armed Forces.

Layoffs - Suspension from pay status of an employee, expected to last seven consecutive days. This action must be initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker, for reasons such as lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal employment, inventory-taking, plant breakdown, shortage of materials.

APPENDIX II

KEY



Arabic numbers above graph lines indicate the last month of the year for which data have been plotted.

"A" indicates that scale is arithmetic. "L1", "L2", or "L3" indicate a ratio (semilogarithmic) scale of 1, 2, or 3 decks respectively.

Shaded areas on the graph indicate recession periods in the United States as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Broken lines on graphs indicate that data is not available for that time period.

Montana's indicators have been classified into three types; Leading, Coinciding, and Selected. The classification of Montana's Leading and Coinciding Indicators parallels the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis classification. This has been done to facilitate an easier and more accurate comparison of individual indicators with those of the nation. (This classification, however, does not mean that the Montana Employment Service has endorsed any particular economic theory.)

Historical data available upon request.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.